

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. Original Claims 1-18 have been currently amended. Claim amendments were made relative to the original Claims 1-18, as filed. Support for the amended claims can be found throughout the specification and in the original claims. Particular support for the amended claims can be found in the respective original claims. No new matter is believed to have been introduced by the amended claims.

The specification was amended, as shown above, to provide a paragraph regarding related applications. No new matter is believed to have been introduced by the amendment to the specification.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and request early notice of such action.

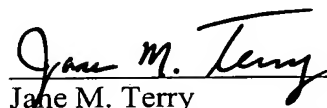
Respectfully submitted,

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